

AGENDA ITEM V B

PROPOSED LETTER OF INTENT

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Master's students in Nursing make two choices regarding their specialization. First, students select broad professional directions by choosing to be Nurse Educators, Nurse Administrators, Clinical Nurse Specialists, or (as is germane here) Nurse Practitioners. Then, they specialize again. A student aspiring to be a Nurse Practitioner for example has the choice of certifying more specifically in pediatric, adult, family, geriatric, or women's health. Before or after specific certification, however, Nurse Practitioners may switch educational or professional directions. With thoughtful planning, Nursing programs can accommodate these switches of direction efficiently. Grambling State University wishes to do just that: it wants to make it possible for, say, a Nurse Educator who already has a Master's degree in Nursing to become a Family Nurse Practitioner without having to re-take the entire Master's degree curriculum. Similarly, the University wishes to allow Nurse Practitioners who have certified in, say, geriatric nursing, to certify in family nursing without having to re-take the entire Nurse Practitioner curriculum. Accordingly, the University's proposal is to fashion multiple curricular routes to the same degree destination.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Appropriateness with Institutional Role, Scope, and Mission

The proposal is appropriate to Grambling's role, scope and mission.

Potential for Unnecessary Program Duplication

Northwestern State University, sixty-five miles away from Grambling, offers an M.S. in Nursing with a Nurse Practitioner option. Because many of Grambling's potential nursing students find it prohibitively expensive or inconvenient to travel while working full-time (as is apparently typical), the proximity of Northwestern's program is weakened as a potential objection. There are no programs within a 200 mile radius that offer the option of certifying as a Family Nurse Practitioner after certifying in some other area. Therefore, it appears likely that there will be no unnecessary duplication.

Prospects for Funding

No new or redirected funds will be required. The proposed offering will not require new courses, faculty, or other resources.

Consistency with Desegregation Settlement Agreement

The Desegregation Settlement Agreement provides for the establishment of an M.S. degree in Nursing at Grambling State University. That agreement does not, however, address the range of certifications that may be offered.

STAFF SUMMARY

The staff concludes that the Letter of Intent for these projected new curricular routes meets requirements of the **Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 - Letters of Intent for Projected New Academic Programs**. The staff notes that if this Letter of Intent is approved, it may be developed into a full proposal which will be further reviewed by the staff and/or external consultants. Once this review process is completed, the staff will summarize its findings and make recommendations to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and to the Board of Regents for final action on program implementation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Letter of Intent from Grambling State University to establish projected new curricular routes to Family Nurse Practitioner Certification.